

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 6

Introduced by Assembly Member Cohn

December 2, 2002

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 6—Relative to Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 6, as introduced, Cohn. Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of October 2003 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Home should be a place of warmth, unconditional
2 love, tranquility, and security; however, for many Americans,
3 home is tainted with violence and fear; and

4 WHEREAS, Domestic violence is much more than the
5 occasional family dispute; and

6 WHEREAS, According to the Surgeon General, United States
7 Public Health Service, domestic violence is a societal problem of
8 epidemic proportions; and

9 WHEREAS, According to experts between 2 and 4 million
10 American women are battered every year, and that between 3.3 and
11 10 million children witness violence in their homes; and

12 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of
13 Labor, 1,000,000 people are assaulted and injured every year as a
14 result of workplace violence, 1,000 people are killed every year
15 due to workplace violence, and 30 percent of battered women lose

1 their jobs due to harassment at work by abusive husbands or
2 boyfriends; and

3 WHEREAS, Battering affects families across America in all
4 socioeconomic, racial, and ethnic groups; and

5 WHEREAS, More than one-half of the number of women in
6 need of shelter from an abusive environment may be turned away
7 from a shelter due to lack of space; and

8 WHEREAS, Women are not the only targets of domestic
9 violence: young children, elderly persons, and men are also
10 victims in their own homes; and

11 WHEREAS, Emotional, physical, and psychosocial scars are
12 often permanent; and

13 WHEREAS, A coalition of organizations has emerged to
14 confront this crisis directly. Law enforcement agencies, domestic
15 violence hotlines, battered women and children's shelters, health
16 care providers, faith-based organizations, the courts, the
17 volunteers that serve those entities are helping the effort to end
18 domestic violence; and

19 WHEREAS, It is important to recognize the compassion and
20 dedication of the individuals involved in that effort, applaud their
21 commitment, and increase public understanding of this significant
22 problem; and

23 WHEREAS, The first Day of Unity was celebrated in October
24 1981 and was sponsored by the National Coalition Against
25 Domestic Violence for the purpose of uniting battered women's
26 advocates across the nation in an effort to end domestic violence;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, That one day has grown into a month of activities
29 at all levels of government, aimed at creating awareness about the
30 problem and presenting solutions; and

31 WHEREAS, The first Domestic Violence Awareness Month
32 was proclaimed in October 1987; now, therefore, be it

33 *Resolved* by the Assembly of the State of California, That the
34 Legislature hereby proclaims the month of October 2003 as
35 Domestic Violence Awareness Month; and be it further

36 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
37 *thereof concurring*, That the Secretary of the Assembly transmit
38 a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the
39 Governor of the State of California, the Director of the United
40 States Department of Health and Human Services, and to each



- 1 Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the
- 2 United States.

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